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Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5146

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0250

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M.) CH US
SUBJECT: VIP VISIT: FORMER PRESIDENT AND MRS. RICHARD M. NIXON: USLO ROLE

1. IN ABSENCE OF INFORMATION TO CONTRARY, WE ASSUME THAT HAN HSU'S CONTACT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE IS THE ONLY DISCUSSION (EXCEPTING ON SUCH TECHNICAL MATTERS AS SECURITY AND AIRCRAFT) PRCLO HAS HAD WITH US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT FORTHCOMING VISIT OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON. GIVEN "PRIVATE" NATURE OF THE VISIT, WE HAVE NOT BEEN SURPRISED THAT THE CHINESE HAVE TAKEN NO INITIATIVE WITH US HERE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR IT BEYOND REQUESTING VISAS FOR AIR CREW AND PROTOCOL OFFICERS. STARTING WITH THE ARRIVAL HERE OF THE ADVANCE SECRET SERVICE TEAM, HOWEVER, USLO MAY NEED AT ANY TIME TO INDICATE TO MFA WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT OUR ROLE IN THE VISIT TO BE.

2. WE, OF COURSE, HAVE NO PRECISE PRECEDENT FOR A VISIT OF THIS NATURE AND, EVEN IN THE CASES OF THE SUPER-FICIALLY-SIMILAR VISITS LAST YEAR OF THE UK'S HEATH AND WEST GERMANY'S STRAUSS, THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN THE WAYS THE TWO EMBASSIES PARTICIPATED. IN BOTH CASES THE MISSION CHIEFS TOOK PART IN AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND IN DINNERS, BUT THE UK AMBASSADOR ATTENDED MEETINGS WITH PRC LEADERS AND GERMAN AMBASSADOR DID NOT. AT ANY RATE, THE VISIT OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON IS SUI GENERIS AND WILL, OF COURSE,
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BE A MAJOR NEWS EVENT, WITH THE ROLE OF USLO UNDER-

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GOING CLOSE SCRUTINY FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS AS AN
INDICATIONOF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE USG ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE VISIT.

3. THE NATURE OF USLO PARTICIPATION WILL BE DEPENDENT,
FINALLY, ON THE DESIRES OF THE CHINESE AND OF MR. NIXON.
HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S
REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS,
WHICH ARE DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY TO SERVE THE US-PRC
RELATIONSHIP WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THIS IS A
PRIVATE VISIT WHICH NEVERTHELESS WILL BE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED:
A. AIRPORT ARRIVAL. ACTING CHIEF WOULD (1) BE PRESENT
AT PEKING AIRPORT TO GREET THE FORMER PRESIDENT ON
ARRIVAL, AND (2) TAKE INITIATIVE, IF NECESSARY, TO
INSURE THAT THE PRC MAKES APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THIS.

B. CEREMONIAL DINNERS. (1) WE WOULD NOT SEEK
INVITATION FOR ACTING CHIEF'S ATTENDANCE, BUT (2)
WE WOULD ACCEPT IF INVITED.

C. MEETINGS WITH CHINESE LEADERS. (1) WE WOULD NOT
TAKE INTIATIVE FOR ACTING CHIEF'S ATTENDANCE BUT
(2) WE WOULD ACCEPT IF INVITED.

D. ACTING CHIEF WOULD OFFER USLO COURTEST OF ANY
PRIVATE TYPE DESIRED (E.G., VISIT TO USLO).

E. AIRPORT DEPARTURE. PARTICIPATION SAME AS ON
ARRIVAL.

4. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN ABOVE PROPOSALS, WE HOPE
IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ADVISE FORMER PRESIDENT OF
A AND E, WHICH SEEM TO US TO BE ESSENTIAL MINIMUM
PARTICIPATION. IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE
ADVANCE GUIDANCE IN REGARD TO D. CONCERNING B AND
C, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S WHISHES
WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT CHINESE INVITE ACTING
CHIEF, AND IF DEPARTMENT WANTS ACTING CHIEF TO ATTEND,
THIS WOULD BEST BE RAISED WITH MR. NIXON BEFORE HE
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MEETS WITH PROTOCOL CHIEF CHU.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLY INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH WILL
ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT TO
THE DEGREE AND IN THE MANNER THE DEPARTMENE DESIRES.
THAER

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